



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
ANNOUNCES PROTECTED SPECIES RELEASE, DISENTANGLEMENT, AND
IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS BEING HELD IN APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE 2008**

Beginning January 2007, shark and swordfish limited access permit holders and applicants for permit transfers must submit a copy of their Protected Species Release, Disentanglement, and Identification workshop certificate in order to renew or transfer either a shark limited access and/or a swordfish limited access permit (71 FR 58057; October 2, 2006).

WHO MUST ATTEND

- All new applicants for shark limited access and/or a swordfish limited access permits
- Pelagic longline, bottom longline, and gillnet vessel **owners**
- Pelagic longline, bottom longline, and gillnet vessel **operators**

Vessel operators are required to possess on board the vessel valid workshop certificates for both the vessel owner and operator at all times.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOPS

- To educate longline and gillnet fishermen on the required techniques for safe handling and release of entangled and/or hooked protected species, such as sea turtles, marine mammals, and smalltooth sawfish
- To improve identification of protected species and improve reporting
- To generate a better understanding of the requirements for participating in these fisheries
- To provide participants with the skills needed to reduce the mortality of protected species

SCHEDULE

The following table lists the workshops to take place in April, May, and June 2008. Workshops will begin promptly at **9:00 am** and will conclude at approximately **5:00 pm**. Additional workshops will be scheduled in each region throughout 2008.

Date	Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code
April 2008					
04/08/2008	Magnolia Plantation Hotel	16391 Robinson Road	Gulfport	MS	39503
May 2008					
05/21/2008	Hilton Garden Inn	5353 N. Virginia Dare Trail	Kitty Hawk	NC	27949
June 2008					
06/18/2008	Holiday Inn Harborside & Gulfview Beach Resort	401 2nd Street	Indian Rocks Beach	FL	33795
06/25/2008	Holiday Inn	151 Route 72 East	Manahawkin	NJ	08050

WHAT TO BRING

To ensure the workshop certificate is linked to the correct permit, please bring the following items to the workshop.

Individual Vessel Owner:



Printed on Recycled Paper



- Proof of identification
- A copy of the applicable permit(s), and
- A copy of the vessel registration or documentation.

Representative of a Business or Co-Owned Vessel:

- Proof that the individual is an agent (partial owner) of the business
- A copy of the applicable permit(s), and
- Proof of identification

Vessel Operator:

- Proof of identification

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To sign up for a scheduled workshop, please contact Aquatic Release Conservation (877) 411-4272), 1870 Mason Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32117.

For further information regarding workshop requirements please visit the following webpage:
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/workshops> or contact Greg Fairclough, (727) 824-5399.

for James P. Burgen
Alan Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

MAR - 4 2008

Date

SIGN UP FOR ATLANTIC HMS NEWS

-- An electronic newsletter informing you of the latest HMS-related actions --

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/>